REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 has been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry of the foregoing amendment is respectfully requested.

In accordance with the Claims 1-10 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 112:

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1 and 3-6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The rejection is traversed, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner asserts that the specification does not describe "a spare area for defect management for a group including a plurality of the zones with the spare area not being in the group." While not specifically limited thereto and as discussed with the Examiner in the interview of November 9, 2006, an example of the location of a spare area relative to the group is shown in FIG. 2B and described in paragraph 0027, where a spare area 204 is after the group of zones 0 through q. As shown, the spare area 204 is not in the zones 0 through q. However, while it is respectfully submitted that the zones can be defined as a group, claim 1 has been amended to more closely conform to terminology used in the specification without limiting the scope thereof. As such, as agreed to in the interview of November 9, 2006, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1 and 3-6.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner allows claims 2 and 7-10.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

STEIN, MCEWEN & BUI, LLP

Date: Nov. 9, 2006

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